

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SCA-01 /059 W
-----150554Z 029760 /13

R 142150Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3681
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 1221

E..9. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ES, PINR, PGOV, PINT, PINS
SUBJECT: POST ELECTIGI ASYLEES LEAVE SAN SALVADOR

REFS: (A) SAN SALVADOR 1013, (B) SAN JOSE 0909, (C) SAN JOSE 1035

1. FOLLOWING THE FEBRUARY 28 FORCED CLEARING OF THE PLAZA LIBERTAD BY GOVERNMENT TROOPS, AND DEFEATED PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE CLARAMOUNT'S FLIGHT TO COSTA RICA, OPPOSITION LEADERS WITHER WENT INTO HIDING OR SOUGHT ASYLUM IN THE COSTA RICAN AND MEXICAN EMBASSIES. OF THE TWLEVE ASYLEES THE EMBASSY WAS AWARE OF, FIVE WERE MILITARY.

2. LT. DANIEL CANAS INFANTE WAS THE FIRST TO LEAVE THE COSTA RICAN EMBASSY ON MARCH 6, WHEN HE TRAVELED TO COSTA RICA. THREE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC YOUTH MEMBERS (DAVID HUMBERTO TREJO PADILLA, ROBERTO ARGUMEDO VIERA DIAZ AND SAUL ALFREDO GUEVARA) LEFT THE REFUGE OF THE MEXICAO EMBASSY ON MARCH 2 FOR MEXICO CITY, AND ON MARCH 10 THE FINAL EIGHT ASYLEES WHO HAD BEEN LIVING IN THE
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COSTA RICAN EMBASSY LEFT FOR SAN JOSE. AN EARLY MARCH GOVERNMENT DECREE TRANSFERRING FIVE RETIRED MILITARY (CLARAMOUNT AMONG THEM) TO THE ACTIVE DUTY LIST, THEREBY SUBJECTING THEM TO MILITARY JUSTICE, WAS RECENTLY REVERSED. THE DEALY IN THE DEPARTURE OF THE ASYLEES WAS DUE TO EFFORTS BY COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR JULIAN ZAMORA AND THE GOES TO SORT OUT THEIR STATUS. PRESIDENT MOLINA HAD SAID THAT THE CIVILIAN ASYLEES HAD

NO CHARGES AGAINST THEM AND WERE FREE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, BUT MILITARY SOURCES TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE MILITARY ASYLEES FIRST HAD TO SEEK GOVERNMENT PERMISSION BEFORE TRYING TO LEAVE. AS IT TURNED OUT, THE ASYLEES LEFT BEFORE THERE WAS A FINAL DETERMINATION. PER A NEWSPAPER ARTICLE QUOTING COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO, THE EIGHT ASYLEES ARRIVED IN HIS COUNTRY AS REFUGEES, AND THEIR STATUS WOULD BE STUDIED IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHETHER THEY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED POLITICAL ASYLEES.

3. THE EIGHT TRAVELERS OF MARCH 10 WERE: DR. JOSE ANTONIO MORALES EHRLICH, FORMER MAYOR OF SAN SALVADOR AND UNO VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE; COLONELS MARIANO MUNGUIA PAYES AND DANIEL GUEVARA PAIZ; CAPT. CAROLOS CARDONA WEYLER; AGRONOMIST RAFAEL MONTALVO; DR. AMILCAR MARTINEZ; RAMON ARTURO MEXA, EX-MAYOR OF SOYAPANGO; AND LT. JOSE FABIAN CARCAMO. AT THIS WRITING, THE GOVERNMENT IS STILL LOOKING FOR COLONES MARIANO CASTRO MORAN AND ARMANDO MOLINO MENA.

4. COMMENT. THE MARCH 10 ASYLEE DEPARTURES DIMINISH THE FUTURE IMPACT OF EL SALVADOR'S OPPOSITION VOICE. THE 1972 OPPOSITION PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, NAPOLEON DURATE, REMAINS IN EXILE IN CARACAS SINCE THAT YEAR. A SIMILAR FATE APPEARS DUE COLONEL CLARAMOUNT AND THE MARCH 10 TRAVELERS. THE GOVERNMENT'S WORDS ABOUT THE ASYLEES ("THEY ARE NOT BEING PERSECUTED FOR POLITICAL REASONS, THERE DO NOT EXIST CHARGES AGAINST THEM, THEY ARE FREE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY WHEN THEY WISH") SHOULD BE INTERPRETED IN THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF GOVERNMENT REDIBILITY IN THESE POST-ELECTION DAYS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, POLITICAL ASYLUM, OPPOSITION PARTIES, PARTY LEADERS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANS01221
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SAN SALVADOR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770362/aaaaccsd.tel
Line Count: 97
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: f04e7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SAN SALVADOR 1013, 77 SAN JOSE 909, 77 SAN JOSE 1035
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3117145
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POST ELECTIGI ASYLEES LEAVE SAN SALVADOR
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, PINT, PINS, ES, MX, CS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f04e7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009